

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the non-final Office Action mailed on March 14, 2005. Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. In the Office Action, Claims 4, 7-9 and 11 are objected to, Claims 1, 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 and Claims 2, 5, 10 and 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. In response Claims 1 and 8-9 have been amended, and Claims 6-7 have been canceled. This amendment does not add new matter. In view of the amendments and/or for the response set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections should be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,327,843 to Corley ("*Corley*"). Claims 2, 5 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Corley*. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Corley* in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,741,458 to Odorici ("*Odorici*"). Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Corley* in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,104,780 to Carter et al. ("*Carter*").

Claims 4, 7-9 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to include, in part, the limitations of Claims 6-7, and Claims 6-7 have been canceled. Claims 8-9 have been amended to depend from Claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that the patentability of amended Claim 1 renders moot the objections and rejections of Claims 2-5 and 8-13 that depend from Claim 1. In this regard, the cited art fails to teach or suggest the elements of Claims 2-5 and 8-13 in combination with the novel elements of Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and the obviousness rejections with respect to Claims 2, 5, 10 and 12-13 be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified patent application and earnestly solicit an early allowance of same.

Respectfully submitted,

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